



CITIZEN NEWS



Vol. 25, No. 4 Yorktown, Virginia

Winter 2004



Two examples of the beautification efforts in the northern end of the County.

Prettying Up Our Highways

County's Beautification Plan Continues

Things are blooming along York County highways as the County and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) team up to perform landscape enhancements under the Revenue Sharing Program. This program allows local governments and VDOT the opportunity to share the costs of specified improvement projects. With the help of shared resources, York County began the "corridor beautification program," aimed at visually improving primary roadway entrances and commercial districts in the County.

The first project, completed in 1999, placed trees and shrubs in the medians and shoulders of Route 17 and Victory Boulevard from the point these roads intersect to respective

Newport News City lines. The positive impact of this effort led to a comprehensive landscaping project that included trees, shrubs, and flowering plants at the northern end of the County along Route 199, Mooretown Road, East Rochambeau Drive, and Lightfoot Road. This project was completed in October 2003, and since then, planning for more improvements has continued, primarily focusing on Route 17.

This fall, additional flowering bulbs and perennials will be planted to complete the lower portion of Route 17, which received trees and shrubs in the 1999 project. In addition, small

See Highways on page 8

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Board of Supervisors Actions

August 3, 2004

- Approved the appropriation of funding committed by Hampton Roads Planning District Commission for the purchase of Health Department and hospital communications equipment for the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Response System. The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System (HRMMRS) is a major initiative to ensure a robust medical response to the effects of a weapons of mass destruction/terrorism incident or other major disaster with significant victims. This resolution allowed for the acceptance and appropriation of up to \$392,000 for communications equipment.
- Accepted and appropriated \$166,497 in Federal FY03 Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness, grant funds for responder equipment and other equipment essential to support the mission of Fire and Life Safety and the Sheriff's Office.

August 17, 2004

- Authorized execution of a contract between York County and the Colonial Services Board for delivery of services. These boards oversee the delivery of mental health, mental retardation, and substance abuse services. York County has been served by the Colonial Services Board since 1968.

September 7, 2004

- Authorized the expansion of an existing mini-storage warehouse facility located at 2360 Hampton Highway onto an adjacent 1.23-acre portion of property currently occupied by the Wash Moore car wash facility.
- Approved a use permit authorizing a nightclub to be operated as part of a planned restaurant to be located at 264A and 264B McLaws Circle within the Festival Marketplace shopping center.

September 21, 2004

- Approved the exemption from real and personal property taxation pursuant to Virginia Code to Edgehill Association. Such exemptions may be granted by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Code of Virginia §58.1-3651 for the “real or personal property taxes, or both, owned by a nonprofit organization that uses such property for religious, charitable, patriotic, historical, benevolent, cultural, or public park and playground purposes.”

October 5, 2004

- Authorized the sale of a portion of a parcel of real estate owned by the County located at 311 Redoubt Road to Just of York, LLC, for expansion of its current facility. The property was sold to Just of York, LLC, trading as Just Plumbing, for \$106,000, or \$3 per square foot.
- Authorized the execution of agreements for roadside collection of residential solid waste and for operation and maintenance of the County's transfer station. Browning-Ferris Industries Waste Service LLC (BFI) was selected as having the best proposal for three reasons: 1) they proposed significantly lower costs for both contracts; 2) they have proven capability and customer service with the existing York County contracts, and 3) they proposed, as part of the transfer station contract, to fund and build a Citizen Solid Waste Drop-off Facility to alleviate traffic congestion. The drop-off facility, along with other improvements, is included in the 2007 through 2009 Capital Improvement Plan. Other changes in the new contract will be publicized in the near future in various mediums including programs on the County's Cable Channel WYCG-TV46.

Contact Your Board Member

District 1

Walter C. Zaremba
106 Royal Grant Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185
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Seaford, VA 23696
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District 4

James S. Burgett
106 Pageland Drive
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 890-3331 (voice mail)
burgett@yorkcounty.gov

District 5

Thomas G. Shepperd
134 Stone Lake Court
Yorktown, VA 23693
(757) 890-3332 (voice mail)
shepperd@yorkcounty.gov

Board Appointments

Wetlands Board

Jan W. Briede
Alvin K. Russell
Nathan T. Smith

If you are interested in serving on a board, commission, or committee, call 890-3320 and request a board bank application. You can also complete the application online. Visit www.yorkcounty.gov, click on "Local Government," "Boards, Committees, Commissions," and finally on "Submit an Application."

Head Start Taking Applications

York County Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2004-2005 school year. This program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and is licensed through the state by the Department of Social Services. Enrollment is open to families meeting federal income guidelines and whose children are aged 3, 4, and those who become 5 after September 30. This FREE pre-school program extends services to include the special needs of children with disabilities.

Children attend Head Start classes September through May on Tuesday through Friday mornings for half-day sessions. Children receive a USDA breakfast and lunch, while the child's family receives case management services. York County Head Start is licensed for 117 children with seven classrooms located throughout the County. Transportation is provided on a limited basis within the County.

Head Start does not discriminate in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

If you would like more information about Head Start or would like to volunteer, call 890-3888 or visit the office located in the Griffin-Yeates Center, 1490 Government Road, Williamsburg.

HOAs Have FREE Website

Every Homeowners Association in York County has its own FREE website on the Community Network! Each neighborhood website is already online, however, most have not yet been developed. This website can be as simple or complex as you make it, and it can be used to show pictures of your neighborhood, to post meeting notes or a neighborhood event calendar, to list contact information for officers, and much more. This useful tool is one that each neighborhood should use. If your neighborhood is interested in developing its site, visit www.yorkcountyycc.org and click on "Neighborhood" and then "Contact Us."

Celebrate The Season At



Washington Square Shopping Center

Yorktown

New to the County, Willow's offers a vast selection of unique and one of a kind gifts, plants, loose cut flowers and fresh flower designs. We deliver to the entire Peninsula, surrounding areas, and worldwide.

Check out our gift line @ www.willowsfineflowers.com

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December 5
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Erosion/Sediment Control Program

The purpose of the County's Erosion and Sediment Control program is to prevent the degradation of properties, streams, lakes, creeks, rivers, and other important natural resources. This is accomplished by requiring the use of erosion and sediment control measures for land disturbances and construction projects. Any change to the land that may result in soil erosion from water or wind or the movement of sediment into state waters is considered a land disturbing activity. This may include clearing,

grading, excavating, transporting, and filling. Generally, any disturbance greater than 2,500 square feet (50' x 50') requires a land disturbing activity permit. However, minor disturbances for home gardening, home landscaping, and home repairs are generally exempt.

For permitting information, call the Department of Environmental and Development Services at 890-3752. A word of caution: Starting work prior to obtaining a land disturbing activity permit could result in a \$1,000 per day fine!

Storage Shed Regulations

Before constructing or installing a storage building or shed on your property, stop and think . . . **Permit?** . . . **Setback?** It's important for homeowners to understand the County's regulations regarding accessory storage buildings and sheds if you're planning to place such an improvement on your residential property. Residents installing storage sheds that are less than 150 square feet in area are not required to obtain building permits prior to installation, **however**, the structure must adhere to established setback requirements. Sheds are never permitted to be closer than five feet to side or rear property lines, however the

required setback may be greater based on the location of the shed and its proximity to the house. Residents installing sheds that are 150 square feet in area or greater must first obtain building permits; the required setbacks are determined during the building permit review process.

In summary, it's highly recommended that residents call the County's Zoning and Code Enforcement office at 890-3524 to check on permitting and setback requirements **before** installing sheds and storage buildings on their properties.

Local Business Report

by Melissa Dickens, Business Development Representative - Office of Economic Development

E-Commerce Business Assistance Grant Program - The York County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) has established an E-Commerce Business Assistance Grant Program to encourage the E-Commerce development of all York County businesses. The goal of the grant program is to get all York County businesses online, which is a great way to be noticed and be successful in today's high-tech world! The IDA has granted \$30,000 to the York County Chamber of Commerce who will be administering the program. Businesses in York County can apply for matching grants of up to \$500 each (\$1,000 for Woman or Minority owned businesses) for the purposes of creating a website for their business or upgrading their current website. Eligible projects must create or improve a company's online identity, interactivity, promotion, or transactions.

Interested businesses should contact the Chamber at www.yorkcountyycc.org or 877-5920 for information on the program and for a list of authorized providers. Applications can be submitted online and will be reviewed on a monthly, rolling basis. Only work done after the Chamber's approval will qualify for grant funds. If your business creates websites and would like to be on the list of approved providers, please contact the Chamber at grants@yorkcountyycc.org. Your business must be a Chamber member in order to be an approved provider for this E-Commerce Grant Program.

23rd Annual Occasion for Industry - Each year, the IDA and the Office of Economic Development (OED) host an annual Occasion for Industry dinner where they recognize businesses that have developed new locations or expanded their current location in York County throughout the past year. This year's dinner was held October 28 at the Williamsburg Clarion Hotel. Close to 200 people attended this function. Special thanks to reception sponsors C&F Bank, Dominion Virginia Power, Giant Industries, and Mid-Atlantic Commercial. Also thanks to the guest

speaker, Jim Noel - Director of Economic Development in York County - who spoke about the Riverwalk Landing project. Congratulations to each of the 2004 award recipients:



Everette H. Newman, III, of Presidents Park, accepts the award from IDA Chairman Rick Moberg.

- 1st Advantage Federal Credit Union - new 48,000 sq. ft. building, 125 new employees;
- Home Depot - new 133,000 sq. ft. building, 150 new employees;
- Liguria Retail Center - new 10,000 sq. ft. building, 200 new employees;

- Presidents Park - new 10,000 sq. ft. building, 35 new employees;
- Seaford Transfer - 6,000 sq. ft. expansion, three new employees;
- Texas Roadhouse - new 7,000 sq. ft. building, 150 new employees;
- Virginia Wings-Hooters - new 6,000 sq. ft. building, 150 new employees;
- Wachovia Bank - new 5,000 sq. ft. building, 15 new employees;
- Williamsburg Motors - new 55,000 sq. ft. building, 70 new employees.

Route 17 Corridor Revitalization Effort - The York County Route 17 Corridor Revitalization effort, which offers matching grants of up to \$20,000 to owners of Route 17 businesses for the purpose of performing a variety of improvements to their property, is now well under way. The program began awarding grants in April 2004, with \$250,000 available to Route 17 businesses. Sixteen businesses have already taken advantage of this program, however, there is still over \$136,000 left for others who apply and qualify for a grant.

Grant applications are available at the York County Office of Economic Development, 224 Ballard Street in Yorktown, during regular business hours or by downloading the PDF application file at www.yorkcounty.gov. For more information, call 890-3317.

York County SCORE Chapter - York County has recently established its own Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) chapter. The SCORE program offers in-person meetings with local business counselors or email access to over 1,200 counselors across the U.S., who are available to assist local businesses with any type of question they may have. SCORE is confidential, fast, convenient, and FREE!

York County SCORE counselors are available each Wednesday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Tabb Library to provide face-to-face counseling. To schedule an appointment with a SCORE counselor, call Joan at the York County Chamber at 877-5929. For more information on the program, please visit www.yorkcountyycc.org and click on "SCORE."

Fantastic 50 Awards - Goodman and Company, on behalf of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, is currently accepting applications for this year's Fantastic 50 Awards. To nominate a company for this award, which recognizes fast-growing companies in Virginia that are creating new jobs and making steady profits, please visit www.goodmanco.com and fill out the nomination form. The deadline for nominations is November 28, 2004.

If you are interested in establishing or relocating a business in York County, please contact our office. Let us know how we can assist you or help improve the County's business environment for everyone.



Jim Noel, Director of the Office of Economic Development, is shown alongside a Route 17 business participating in the grant program.



The York County School Division

302 Dare Rd., Yorktown, Va. 23692 • (757) 898-0300 • yorkcountyschools.org

York County Schools Fully Accredited!

The Virginia Department of Education recently released school accreditation ratings for the 2003-2004 school year, and all York County schools earned full accreditation. Accreditation status is determined by the annual testing of students in grades 3,5, 8 and in certain end-of-course tests, through the Standards of Learning exams. The SOL exams test student knowledge in the areas of English, math, history and science.

The charts below indicate how each school scored within the specified subject areas. Scores of 70 and above are considered passing, with the exception of elementary English where a 75% pass rate is needed to earn full accreditation.

High Schools

| School | English | Math | History | Science |
|--------------------|---------|------|---------|---------|
| Bruton | 93 | 80 | 86 | 90 |
| Grafton | 96 | 89 | 95 | 93 |
| Tabb | 95 | 89 | 91 | 92 |
| York | 95 | 9 | 86 | 86 |
| York River Academy | ▪ | 89 | 84 | 70 |

Middle Schools

| School | English | Math | History | Science |
|-------------|---------|------|---------|---------|
| Grafton | 85 | 95 | 96 | 95 |
| Queens Lake | 81 | 88 | 85 | 88 |
| Tabb | 87 | 94 | 96 | 95 |
| Yorktown | 80 | 91 | 93 | 89 |

Elementary Schools

| School | English | Math | Gr.3 Hist | Gr.5 Hist | Gr.3 Sci | Gr.5 Sci |
|----------------|---------|------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Bethel Manor | 87 | 84 | 89 | 83 | 89 | 87 |
| Coventry | 92 | 95 | 96 | 99 | 93 | 95 |
| Dare | 95 | 95 | 94 | 97 | 94 | 95 |
| Grafton Bethel | 93 | 92 | 95 | 95 | 89 | 97 |
| Magruder | 77 | 71 | 72 | 83 | 72 | 80 |
| Mt. Vernon | 93 | 89 | 96 | 97 | 95 | 93 |
| Seaford | 88 | 86 | 86 | 93 | 88 | 89 |
| Tabb | 90 | 93 | 91 | 97 | 90 | 92 |
| Waller Mill | 85 | 80 | 86 | 90 | 86 | 85 |
| Yorktown | 83 | 77 | 80 | 87 | 81 | 78 |

YCSD Operating Budget Review Schedule

The York County School Division will soon begin the Fiscal Efficiency Budget Review process. Previously named a "Modified Zero-Based Budget process", this line-by-line budget review occurs every four years. Most meetings begin at 6 p.m. and will take place in the York County School Board Office Conference Room, 302 Dare Rd., Yorktown Va. The meetings are open to the public. The budget review schedule is as follows:

November 29

- Overview of Budget Review Schedule
- Salary/Compensation targets
- Elementary (K-5)
- Secondary core subjects
- Board Services
- Executive Services

December 6

- York River Academy/School of the Arts
- Communication Services
- Transportation
- Human Resources
- Finance

January 10

- Special Education
- Gifted Education
- Career/Tech Education
- Other federal programs
- Health Services
- Maintenance Services

January 31

- Elementary Resource
- Secondary Non-Core

February 7

Public forum on budget proposal

February 7 (cont.)

- Summer School
- Adult Education
- Miscellaneous programs
- Homebound Instruction
- Improvement of Instruction
- Food Service
- Final proposed Budget Prep Summary

March 14

Final adjustments before approval

March 21 (7:30 p.m. at York Hall)
Final budget approval

Fire and Life Safety Tips for A Safe Winter

The winter holiday season is approaching and many families will be busy with preparations. Remember to take time to prepare your home and vehicles for the cold weather. Follow these suggestions for safe winter driving:

- Service vehicles and check antifreeze. Carry a windshield scraper.
- Carry a folding shovel and small bag of sand to use if the vehicle becomes bogged down in the snow or ice.
- Carry blankets and high-energy drinks and snacks.
- Carry a cell phone and constantly observe mile markers or other identifiers so if you need help, you can give good directions to your location.

Winterize homes by checking insulation in attic and walls, caulk and weather-strip doors and windows, and put on the storm windows. When the temperature dips below freezing for an extended period, let the water drip from several faucets, especially at night. Make sure all family members know where the main water valve is and how to turn the water off to the house.

When the power goes out, always call **Virginia Power at 1-888-667-3000**. Virginia Power uses those telephone calls to determine the extent of the outage. It's important that every affected household call to report the power outage. If you lease a generator or own a portable generator, connect appliances directly to the generator, rather than connecting to your home's electrical system.

Remember the people in your family and neighborhood with special needs. Check on elderly family members and neighbors to ensure that they're warm and that they have adequate food supplies and prescription medicines. Help keep sidewalks and walkways clear of snow and ice to avoid injuries from falls. Cold weather puts a strain on the heart without exertion, which means that shoveling snow puts an even greater strain on the heart.

For more information on winter and emergency preparedness, visit www.yorkcounty.gov/fls/em/, or call Fire and Life Safety at 890-3600 Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Wintertime poses a higher fire threat due to an increased use of heating sources such as fireplaces, woodstoves, and electric space heaters. Unfortunately, not too many residents give thought to their home heating systems until the cold weather hits.

According to Jenny Kraft, Unintentional Injury and Violence Prevention Director, Virginia Department of Health-Center for Violence and Injury Prevention, fires caused by home heating equipment used during colder months are the second leading cause of fire deaths in America and account for 36 percent of residential home fires in rural areas.

Fire and Life Safety asks everyone to be sure every level of your home has a working smoke detector. Check and clean detectors on a monthly basis and replace the batteries at least once a year. Smoke detectors function as an early warning system when a fire breaks out and can save lives. A properly installed and maintained smoke detector and a home escape plan are part of a vital home fire safety plan.

Woodstoves and fireplaces

- Be sure they are properly installed.
- Woodstoves should be UL listed.
- Flammable liquids should not be used to start a fire.
- Keep a fireplace screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.

Furnace Heating

- Have your furnace inspected annually to ensure it's in good working condition.
- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working order.
- Inspect the wall, ceiling, and chimney for any discoloration and/or soot buildup, which could be an indicator of a leak.

Electric Space Heaters

- If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit.
- Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the load.
- Keep space heaters away from combustible materials.

• When decorating for the holidays, be sure you check lights and candles for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Replace damaged sets. If you need new sets, check for the "UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY" or "UL" symbol.

• Never put holiday decorations near your heat source. Move all combustible materials away before you start a fire. Use a screen to confine embers and sparks. Don't burn wrapping paper because it may ignite suddenly and cause a flash fire.

Call Fire and Life Safety at 890-3600 for more information. In emergencies, call 9-1-1.

Forecast for the Future: Continued Growth

What does the future hold for York County? A lot depends on the Comprehensive Plan - the long-range plan for the physical development of the County. The plan projects twenty years into the future to identify the County's needs, define goals, and develop strategies for meeting those goals. It was first adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1991, updated in 1999, and is now being updated again.

A Steering Committee of County citizens spent most of September and October going from one end of the County to the other to hear what people have to say about York County and its future. At "Neighborhood Open Houses" all over the County, they have asked people what they want York County to look like twenty years from now, and people have also been weighing in with their opinions by completing an online questionnaire (www.yorkcounty.gov/2025).

From the comments that have been received so far, people like living in York County and, by and large, would like it to stay the way it is. While some say that growth should be stopped or slowed, others recognize the inevitability of growth but want to make sure it doesn't detract from the quality of life they currently enjoy. With regard to changes people would like to see, those mentioned most often are more green space, walkways, bike trails and parks, and fewer salvage yards, vacant shopping centers, and abandoned gas stations. And, not surprisingly, less traffic also made the list.

The job of the Steering Committee, and ultimately the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, will be to sort through all of the ideas and suggestions received from the citizens and turn them into goals and objectives that reflect the residents' vision for the County's future. After that, strategies for implementing these goals and objectives will be developed. In doing so, they'll need to set priorities as they balance competing goals against one another.

Given recent growth rates, you might be surprised to learn that a little more than one-sixth of the County's land area (about 11,200 acres) remains undeveloped. Under the current Comprehensive Plan and with the zoning that's now in place, there's enough undeveloped residential property for about 8,500 more housing units. The Planning Division projects that 6,300 of these units will be built in the next twenty years bringing the population to around 76,000 by 2025. That's a 21 percent increase over today's estimated 63,000 population.

The right to develop land is not an unlimited one. Although growth can't be prevented altogether, there are things we can do to manage it - through zoning and other development regulations - in order to lessen the negative impacts of growth on our quality of life. Limiting commercial entrances on major roads to decrease bottlenecks, connecting subdivisions with streets to avoid more traffic on major thoroughfares, and new sign standards to im-

prove the appearance of major corridors are just a few of these.

If you haven't already done so, please visit www.yorkcounty.gov/2025 and complete the questionnaire or email any comments you have to planning@yorkcounty.gov. Also on the website you'll find a complete listing of citizen comments that have been received (some are listed at right) as well as working papers and other information. Draft chapters of the updated plan will also be posted when they become available. Your comments on these documents will help the Steering Committee in the difficult task of deciding what recommendations it wants to forward to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

So, keep checking back and stay involved.



What do citizens want the County to look like in twenty years? Here's a sampling of the comments we've received so far:

- *"A comfortable, safe, economically viable community, with affordable housing for all income levels, affordable care for Seniors. Less dependent on tourism. Become part of the larger Hampton Roads picture."*
- *"Improved transportation, i.e., high-speed train to Williamsburg. ALL homes would have low-cost or free Internet access."*
- *"Would like to see the power lines buried underground. We would like more storm preparation as well as plans in place for action after natural disasters."*
- *"Connection to HRT on Route 17 corridor and Lackey."*
- *"Downtown Historic Yorktown finished. Family shops and restaurants. Bed and breakfast inns, colonial taverns."*
- *"Retain green areas. Controlled residential development in remaining open areas."*
- *"More pedestrian orientation and parks."*
- *"A reasonable combination of residential and mixed use with nothing but residential east of I-64 Exit 234 (Lightfoot)."*

District Drainageway Maintenance

This year, an improved County easement off-road maintenance approach was implemented in each of the County's five districts. The purpose of the new program is to increase productivity and thereby enhance customer service. This is especially important since there are new subdivisions with drainageways that need to be maintained. Currently, there are 218 County easement drainageways totaling 60 miles that are maintained on a nine-month rotating basis. If you would like to check the maintenance schedule, visit www.yorkcounty.gov/eds/mosquitocontrol.htm. If you don't have Internet access, call 890-3790.

Keep Drainageways Clean

The Drainage and Mosquito Control division, along with the Stormwater Advisory Committee, reminds all citizens to properly dispose of yard debris. So far this year, over 42 tons of debris have been removed from County easements. Most of this debris was placed in the ditches by our residents. You're reminded that when it's determined that a resident has dumped debris into a drainageway, a notice is sent requiring removal by the resident. If debris is not removed in a timely manner, the County will have it removed at the resident's expense. The County provides yard debris pickup. Call 890-3780 to ask for more information about this service. If you have any questions about drainageway maintenance, call 890-3790 or submit a service request at www.yorkcounty.gov/eds.

Outstanding Youth Awards

Nominations Due February 10

Parents, neighbors, coaches, clergy, youth workers, scout leaders, teachers, counselors, and teens! You can help spread some good news about our youth by nominating a high school student living in York County for one of the 2004-2005 Outstanding Youth Awards. Recognition and a \$500 educational scholarship will be given in each of the following areas:

- Compassion
Courage
- Community Service
Overall Achievement

This spring a reception will be held in honor of the four recipients, their families, and respective nominators. Following the reception, winners will receive their awards and be formally recognized at a Board of Supervisors meeting.

Green nomination forms with complete program details are available at the York and Tabb Libraries, Williamsburg/James City County Libraries, York County Parks and Recreation office, and York County Public High Schools. The form can also be downloaded from the Youth Commission's website www.yorkcounty.gov/youthcom.

Be sure to pick up a form today! Nominations must be received on or before February 10!

The Outstanding Youth Awards program is cosponsored by York County's Board of Supervisors and Youth Commission. For more information, call 890-3500.

County Head Start Selected as Rep. to Fatherhood Initiative

The Region III office of the nation's Head Start program has taken the next step in meeting the President's Fatherhood Initiative, a "male involvement" program designed to encourage men to take more active roles in child rearing. The notion of an "initiative" began under the Clinton Administration when professionals reported that the involvement of a positive male role is essential to the healthy emotional development of boys and girls. Under the Bush Administration, Head Start has transformed the earlier initiative by funding the development of strategies and providing training programs for staff to recruit the involvement of men in the lives of young children.

Unique to Region III, which includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington D.C., is the establishment of a quarterly "Fatherhood/Male Involvement Advisory Committee." The Committee is made up of two Head Start staff representatives and one National Head Start Association member from each state in the Region. Kevin Cusce, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker employed by York County as the Psychological Services Coordinator for the Head Start program, was selected by the regional office to be a Virginia representative.

Highways from page 1

trees and low growing shrubs will be installed along the Route 17 public right-of-way in front of the auto and truck salvage yards. Also, this fall additional plantings will be placed along Victory Boulevard enhancing the work previously done between the Kiln Creek Parkway entrances and extending landscaping on the shoulders and medians from the intersection with Route 17 to the intersection of Route 134. The completion of these projects in the fall/winter of 2004 will further enhance the lower Route 17 appearance.



Trees are flourishing in the median on Rt. 171.

In 2005, landscape enhancements are planned at selected Route 17 intersections and median breaks from Ella Taylor Road to Falcon Road. Although not entirely the same, these landscape enhancements will follow the theme of lower Route 17 using many of the same low maintenance plants. In addition, planning is underway for landscape enhancements along Second Street, Merrimac Trail, and Bypass Road in the upper County.

The landscape enhancements along the County's major corridors clearly meets the goals of the County's Comprehensive Plan to promote roadway development that is sensitive to environmental, aesthetic, and cultural resources while at the same time enhancing the long-term visual attractiveness of County roadways and the County itself.

York County Beautification Committee



Beautiful York County Calendars Coming to a Mailbox Near You!

Beginning with calendar year 2001, the York County Beautification Committee has established an annual *Beautiful York County* art contest among all County high school students. Thirteen students receive a monetary award as well as an additional monetary award for the Art Department of their school. Winning art pieces are then utilized to illustrate each month plus the cover of a 12-month calendar. County specific environmental information and dates that are pertinent to York County are highlighted each month. The 2005 *Beautiful York County* calendar will once again be distributed county-wide. Residents can expect to receive calendars by mid-December. If you do not receive a calendar in the mail, additional calendars will be available at both branches of the York County Library and the York County Cooperative Extension Office off of Goodwin Neck Road. For more information about the art contest or calendar distribution, please contact Laurie Halperin at 890-3780, or via email at halperil@yorkcounty.gov. Look for winning artwork from these County high school students:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Cover | Blair Elder |
| January | Leslie Wilson |
| February | David Swindell |
| March | Amber Sanford |
| April | Kelly Jacobs |
| May | Mary Anne Emerson |
| June | Anthony Orband |
| July | Jessica Burton |
| August | Daniel Dorer |
| September | Katie Hudson |
| October | Sophie Skrobialowski |
| November | Zac Stikeleather |
| December | Emily Trauernicht |

2004-05 Leaf Collection Information

Beginning the week of November 15 and continuing through the week of January 31, York County residents can place an unlimited number of **clear** bags of leaves at the front roadside for collection every other week. This service is provided by the County's Waste Management division at no additional cost.

For leaf collection purposes, the County is divided into two zones:

Northern Zone, which includes all homes on and north of Dare Road, including neighborhoods along Wolf Trap Road, Goodwin Neck Road, and homes in and near Marlbank, Edgehill, Queens Lake, Skimino, and Nelson Park. Collection weeks for the northern zone will be -

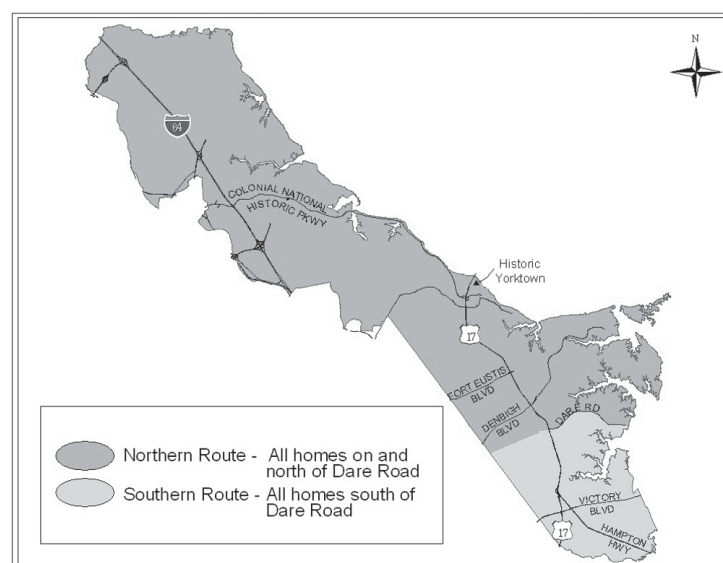
| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| November 15 | November 29 | December 13 |
| December 27 | January 10 | January 24 |

Southern Zone, which includes all homes south of Dare Road, including the neighborhoods in Tabb, Coventry, Kiln Creek, Brandywine, and Harwood Landing. Collection weeks for the southern zone will be -

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| November 22 | December 6 | December 20 |
| January 3 | January 17 | January 31 |

Leaves must be in clear bags and bags must be easy to handle by one person (max. weight limit = 40 lbs.). Clear bags can be purchased at local hardware, grocery and department stores.

Bags must be at the front roadside by 7 a.m. on the Monday of your collection week. Pickup will be completed by the end of the week. For more information, call 890-3780.



Waste Management Center Contact Info.

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Website: www.yorkcounty.gov/eds

Telephone: 890-3780

News From Our Treasurer

York County Dog License

The 2005 Dog License applications have been mailed. The \$5.00 license must be purchased by December 31. All dogs over the age of four months are required to have a current license and rabies vaccination.

The license may be purchased by mail, in person at the Treasurer's Office, or by using the Treasurer's drop-box located on the outside of the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard in Yorktown. A rabies certificate is required to purchase a dog license. To get your dog's license by mail, send the application, rabies certificate, and a check made out to *Treasurer, County of York* to the following address:

**P.O. Box 251
Yorktown, VA 23690-0251.**

The rabies certificate will be stamped and returned with the new dog license.

The Treasurer's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 890-3420.

P.S. Cats are required to have a rabies vaccination at the age of four months, but are not required to have a license.

Second Half of Taxes Due

Tax bills for the second half of the 2004 Personal Property and Real Estate taxes, and any delinquent taxes, have been mailed and are due on or before December 5. Taxes are late on December 7 and penalty and interest will be assessed as required by York County Ordinance. Taxes may be paid by using any of the following options:

- ✓Mail to P.O. Box 251, Yorktown, VA 23690-0251;
 - ✓Over the website at www.yorkcounty.gov/treasurer (choose option E-check);
 - ✓By credit card. Just call 1-800-2pay-tax, or visit www.officialpayments.com (at the prompt, you must enter Jurisdiction Code 1069 to designate York County);
 - ✓Drop your payment in the drop-box located on the outside of the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, Yorktown;
 - ✓Stop by and make your payment in person at the Treasurer's Office at the address given above.
- The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have a question about the assessment of the tax, please call the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office at 890-3381. If you have a question about the payment of the tax bill, please call the Treasurer's Office at 890-3420.



The Finance Building is located near the corner Ballard Street and Alexander Hamilton Boulevard.

News From Our Commissioner

Tangible Personal Property

Tangible Personal Property Tax Returns for individuals and businesses will be mailed the first week in January, and must be filed on or before February 15 to avoid a penalty for late filing or non-filing. A return must be filed on all Personal Property including vehicles, trailers, and motorcycles registered with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and/or garaged in York County, along with boats, mobile homes, and business personal property (furniture, fixtures, equipment, machinery, and tools).

Forms can be mailed to:

**Ann H. Thomas
Commissioner of the Revenue
P.O. Box 190
Yorktown, VA 23690-0190.**

A drop box is located on the Route 17 side of the Finance Building, 120 Alexander Hamilton Boulevard, Yorktown. For more information, call 890-3381 or email revofc@yorkcounty.gov. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled

York County offers a program to taxpayers who are age 65 or older or permanently disabled, which exempts or partially exempts the tax on their real estate or mobile home.

To qualify for this program, a property owner must meet specific requirements as set by York County Ordinance.

An application must be filed with the Commissioner of the Revenue annually on or before April 1. To obtain an application, or to ask about qualifications, please call 890-3382. Information is also available on the website at www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue.

Business License Applications due March 1

The Commissioner of the Revenue's Office will mail Business License renewal applications during the first week of January. To avoid penalties and interest, the license application and tax must be filed and paid by March 1.

If you filed Schedule C or Schedule C-EZ, "Profit or Loss from a Business," you are considered engaged in business and required to obtain a York County Business License.

If you indicate on Line E that your business is located at a York County address and you have not obtained a York County Business License, you are in violation of state and County laws. If Line E is left blank, and your mailing address on the front of your Income Tax Return indicates York County, it is presumed that your business is operating in York County. Placing the correct business location on Line E should ensure that only Schedule C's with a York County business address will be reviewed and will not affect your mailing address.

If you need an application or more information, call 890-3383 or email revofc@yorkcounty.gov. Information is also available at the website www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue.

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

100 County Drive, P.O. Box 532, Yorktown, VA 23690-0532



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND
STATE UNIVERSITY

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Dr. Patricia Sobrero, Interim Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; Lorenza W. Lyons, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

FREE Clinics

Pruning Tree and Small Fruits

Pruning apples, pears, peaches, grapes, blueberries, and other fruits requires special skills. Learn those skills in a hands-on, free, on-site clinic. We will discuss pruning and seasonal care for tree and small fruits. We will demonstrate how to prune apple, peach, and other fruits, giving you the opportunity to develop your pruning skills through hands-on practice.

January 29

Location to be announced

Rain date: February 5

Pruning Trees, Shrubs, Hedges, etc.

February is the best time to prune plants that are not spring flowering. All pruning of deciduous or evergreen trees, shrubs, screens, and hedges needs to be performed in February. Pruning is a horticultural activity that, when properly performed, reduces the need for pesticides and enhances water quality. Bring a lawn chair, pruning shears, and dress warmly.

February 5

True Value Hardware

February 12

Upper Bruton District

February 19

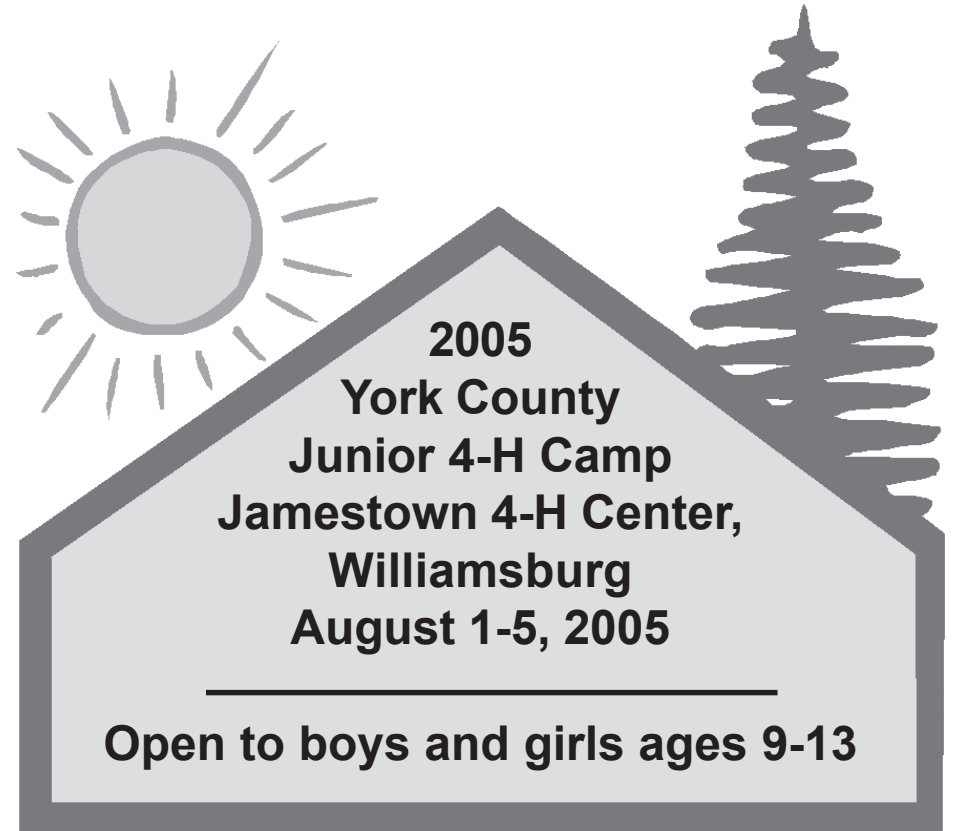
Tabb area

February 26

Ken Mathews Nursery

Clinics are held from 10 a.m. to noon.

Registration can be made at www.yorkcounty.gov/vce, "Upcoming Events," or by calling 890-4940.



By mail **ONLY** registration for this camp will be held February 2-16, 2005. Registration forms must be mailed to the York County Extension Office, postmarked on or after February 2, 2005. Beginning February 17, 2005, registration and payment will be accepted at the VCE-York County office. Registration is open until all camp slots are filled. Registration information will be mailed in early January to last year's campers, current 4-H members, and anyone who requests a camp registration form. Questions? Call the Extension Office at 890-4940 or email ex199@vt.edu.

Virginia Flower and Garden Show January 28-30, 2005

The show is an educational program with horticultural products and vendors on hand. Entrance fee. Find more information at www.vafgs.org.

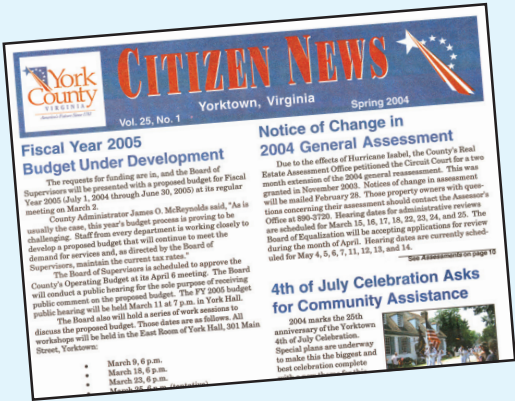
Pesticide Applicator Training

Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification will be on December 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Norge Public Library. Call 890-4940 for more information. Commercial Pesticide Recertification Training will be offered in February/March (exact date to be announced).

Horticultural Extravaganza March 5, 2005

This day-long event presents a choice of over twenty horticultural topics ranging from perennials, vegetables, and ornamentals to lawns, and butterfly gardening, from which you select 5 to attend. Program will include topics for both the novice and advanced gardener. There is a registration fee which includes a box lunch. Call 890-4940 for information.

If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any of these activities, please contact the York Cooperative Extension Office at 890-4940 during business hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations ten days prior to the event.



25,000 households. \$35.

Welcome to the biggest advertising bargain in York County.

ADVERTISING BARGAINS

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1/16 page | \$35 |
| 1/8 page | \$71 |
| Quarter page | \$110 |
| Half page | \$250 |
| Full page | \$500 |

- Subtract 25 percent when you purchase advertising in four consecutive issues.
- Add 25 percent for color.
- Add 10 percent to guarantee your ad's position.

Each page is 11 x 12 inches.

Talk about power-packed value.

For a mere fraction of what Hampton Roads daily newspapers charge for display advertising, you can reach 25,000 households in York County in the *Citizen News*.

It can be as little as \$35 for a 3-by-2 inch ad in a single issue. Or you might choose a larger size, all the way up to a full-color, full-page spread. Check out the menu of choices at right and see what best fits your needs.

No matter which option you choose, there's no better advertising bargain in York County-period.

Call us at 890-3300. Or log on to www.yorkcounty.gov/publicinfo and click on "Citizen News advertising."

See you in print.

Yorktown Celebrates Christmas

December 3, Holiday Tree Lighting - 7 p.m.

The holiday season begins with a Procession of Lights led by the Fifes and Drums of York Town from the Victory Monument down Main Street to York Hall where the tree lighting ceremony begins. The evening includes holiday entertainment, caroling, a visit from Santa, and more. Trolley transportation provided. Sponsored by the York County Historical Committee. Free. 890-4970.



December 3, Lighted Boat Parade - 8 p.m.

After lighting the holiday tree, head to the Waterfront and enjoy the Fifes and Drums of York Town, hot cider and caroling by the beach bonfire. View the recreation and work boats' "parade of lights" on the York River. Trolley transportation provided. Sponsored by the Celebrate Yorktown Committee. Free. 890-4970.



December 4, An Eventful Affair - 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

This will be a day of "events" for your enjoyment and pleasure, and we invite you to take it all in - the entertainment, the demonstrations, the unique shopping opportunities, the exhibits, and the atmosphere of this very special community. Trolley transportation and period entertainment provided. Sponsored by the Celebrate Yorktown Committee. Free. 890-4970.

December 5, Cookies with Santa - 1-4 p.m.

Enjoy cookies with Santa in the Gallery at York Hall. Children can visit with Santa while parents do some holiday shopping. Free. 890-4490.

Exciting New Classes

York County School Division's Lifelong Learning Center will offer the following new classes:

- Digital Photography,
- Holiday Cards and Letters,
- Shopping for Gifts from Home,
- Holiday Photo Display.

The Lifelong Learning Center will continue to offer the extensive training sessions in Computer Basics, File Management, Internet Basics, Windows, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, and many others. Daytime and evening classes are very affordable. For more information, call 898-0329 or visit the website: www.yorkcountyschools.org/lilc.